

SESSION 5 : How to develop healing ministry locally

Learning Objectives

- 1 To become aware of ways in which healing ministry can be developed in the local church from existing aspects of church life, e.g. prayer ministry, pastoral care, worship, community outreach.**
- 2 To explore good practice and to develop further skills in healing ministry.**

What the facilitator needs for this session

Essential for each group member:

Exercise Sheets 4, 5 and 6.

Handout 9 : Good Practice.

Anointing oil (per pair) supplied by facilitator or group members

Also : candle or T-light. Matches.

Handout 10 : resource list (for reference and for use in Session 6)

Poem : A Marvelous Healing

Start-time/Slides	Activity	Facilitator's Notes
<p>0.00 Slide : Course Title, Welcome and Session title</p> <p>Slide: re-cap. on Session 4</p>	<p>Welcome and Prayer Re-cap. on Session 4</p>	<p>Open with a short prayer. Ask for any comments/questions from Session 4.</p>
<p>0.05 Slide: How to develop healing ministry locally</p> <p>Slide : a church notice</p> <p>Slide: Possible ways of introducing healing ministry.</p> <p>0.10 Slide: Video of Adelaide on social factors in health and healing.</p> <p>DVD clip</p> <p>0.15 Slide: Group discussion</p>	<p>Re-visit the exercise in Session 4 in which ways of taking healing ministry outside the church were explored. In this exercise the group will consider ways of introducing healing ministry into the church's life either as a precursor to taking healing into the community, or alongside such a development.</p> <p>Before group discussion watch DVD clip (5 mins.)</p> <p>Group discussion based on Exercise Sheet 4 and a diagram of a set of concentric circles.</p> <p>*Where group members are from a variety of churches, it would be helpful to enable participants to think how healing ministry might be introduced in their context or community. It would be good if the group could consider how they and their churches might work together in partnership to achieve this.</p>	<p>Re-cap on the exercise from Session 4, in which forms of healing ministry beyond the walls of the church were explored.</p> <p>Indicate to the group that taking healing ministry outside the church may well be a development from establishing healing ministry within the church's life.</p> <p>In this exercise group members will consider a number of activities or ways in which healing ministry might be introduced. On a diagram they are to indicate where each activity or way may be located. There could be more than one location for any given activity or way.</p> <p>The diagram forms part of Exercise Sheet 4 and may be reproduced for each group member or drawn on a flip chart sheet.</p> <p>It may be helpful to guide the group in considering what the church currently engages in both inside and outside the church and then to suggest that they see how introducing healing ministry may develop further that aspect of the church's life and mission.</p>

		<p>The list given on Exercise Sheet 4 is by no means exhaustive and the group should be encouraged to add their own suggestions appropriate to their context.</p> <p>The group's ideas should be noted and will be picked up again in Session 6.</p> <p>On the clip Adelaide picks out loneliness as a social factor in causing sickness. This professional view is supported by scientists who have warned that loneliness in old age is twice as bad for health as obesity. John Cacioppo, a neuroscientist from Chicago University, has said that feeling isolated or rejected by society can have profound effects on health, ranging from blood pressure to sleep patterns. Loneliness is also linked to lacking purpose, feeling unhappy and is a risk factor for depression. <i>(Source : The Times 17 February 2014)</i></p>
<p>0.35 Slide: Skills Exercise</p>	<p>Exercise Sheet 5 : developing practice in Listening and Praying</p> <p>The group engages in a role play activity in pairs to develop their practice in listening and praying. Hand-out on this distributed at the end of Session 4.</p> <p>Each member of the pair takes turns in listening to and praying with the other. There will be 5 minutes for this to happen; 3 minutes to listen and 2 minutes to pray. Then the pair change roles with the other listening and praying. The person sharing may speak about an illness/problem/concern either real or imagined. The person listening prays for healing/resolution.</p>	<p>Give out Exercise Sheet 5 with instructions for this exercise.</p> <p>Refer back to the ground rules outlined in Session 1, especially emphasising the need for confidentiality.</p> <p>You will need to keep each of the pairs to time telling them when they should be changing roles and when they should start to give feedback and then end the activity.</p> <p>Help the group to evaluate the exercise and to share positive aspects of listening and praying.</p>

<p>Slide : Giving Constructive Feedback</p>	<p>After exercise, evaluate your experience of listening and praying. Say how well you felt listened to and prayed for and how well you felt you listened to and prayed with the other person.</p> <p>In giving feedback to your partner, start with the positives and cast any negative comments in the form of : "perhaps you might want to consider in future....."</p>	<p>Make sure that all have given and received feedback in the right way and that no-one is hurt by any negative feedback that may not have been communicated appropriately.</p> <p>Hand-out on listening and praying to be retained by group members for their future reference.</p> <p>A fuller handout 8A entitled "Principles of Praying" is downloadable from Session 4 if the group would like to consider healing prayer ministry more broadly, particularly in relation to praying for people in healing services or similar contexts.</p>
<p>1.00 Slide: Good practice in Healing Ministry.</p>	<p>In twos and threes look at the list on Handout 9 of points of good practice in healing ministry. For each item give a reason why that point is included on the list. If there are other items to add to the list, then do so and give a reason why they should be included. (10 mins.)</p> <p>When you have completed the exercise, compare your list and reasons with those others have produced .(5 mins.)</p> <p>Note: The purpose of the exercise is to help you think through why all these points of good practice are important.</p>	<p>Encourage the group to share feedback about the reasons that they gave.</p> <p>Emphasise to the group that there is no 'right answer'. It is in the sharing of reasons that demonstrates how all these points of good practice have merit and should be carefully considered.</p> <p>The handout on good practice is for the group to retain for future reference. Draw attention to the Guidelines of Good Practice mentioned in the handout on Resources which will be looked at in Session 6.</p>
<p>1.10 Slide: Introduction to Testimony – Irene Greenwood</p>		<p>Invite participants to discover in the video that follows what kind of role the Church played. Also how participants see healing in Irene's story.</p>
	<p>Watch the video of the interview with Irene</p>	<p>Use Irene's testimony as a means of highlighting</p>

<p>1..15 Slide: Testimony – Irene Greenwood.</p>	<p>Greenwood.</p>	<p>the difference between healing and cure and of demonstrating how God gives healing in ways we don't always imagine or request.</p> <p>Emphasise the point that death is not a negation of healing but a pathway to complete healing.</p> <p>Note: Cure is the alleviation of symptoms and restoration to full health and strength. Healing may occur even when cure does not come about. Healing is concerned with growing towards wholeness of life as a human being made in God's image and likeness. Healing can therefore take place even when (physical) cure doesn't.</p> <p>Allow time for any response from the group and/or the opportunity to feed into the group conversation the points given above.</p> <p>Be prepared for any group members with recent bereavements or personal experiences similar to the one shared to find this story especially touching. It may be that the group is supportive, but ensure that individuals are not left isolated if the material affects them. Some may need care outside the group session or referral to another person or agency.</p>
<p>Slide: Extract from Wesley's Journal 11 March 1762</p>		<p>A reflection on a pastoral experience from Wesley's ministry</p>
<p>1.35 Slide: 'Unanswered prayer.' Personal Suffering Untimely Death</p>	<p>Exercise Sheet 6 Poem : A Marvelous Healing</p>	<p>Encourage the group to go beyond Psalm 23.</p>

As a group share together which poems, hymns, prayers and portions of scripture you have found helpful in seeking to come to terms with the issues of personal suffering, 'unanswered' prayer and untimely death.

In the space provided on the exercise sheet, write what others have come up with.

'Unanswered' prayer is shown in speech marks because all prayer is answered but not always as we have requested. Along with personal suffering and untimely death, it is an issue for which there can be no completely satisfying answers.

This exercise is about how people have been helped through their faith and spirituality to come to terms with such issues. It is not about providing reasons or solutions, let alone offering platitudes.

Some theological points that may be worth reminding the group of are these.

- God is all-knowing and all-seeing and views our lives on a far bigger canvas than we do.
- God knows what personal suffering is, for God has shared it fully in the crucifixion and death of Jesus.
- Even though prayers may not be answered as we wish, God hears and responds. We walk by faith and not certainty.
- At the heart of God's being is mystery, because God is God and we are human.

It may be helpful to have some hymn books and Bibles available for this exercise.

<p>1.50 Slide: Worship</p> <p>Worship Slide : lighted candle</p> <p>Slide: Text of James 5:14-15</p> <p>Slide: Prayer of Anointing</p>	<p>Read the passage from James 5:14-15.</p> <p>Break into pairs so each can pray for the other for whatever is shared. Even if no specific prayer for healing is requested, light a candle and anoint one another with oil using the following prayer.</p> <p>N_____, I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May you know God’s healing blessings upon your life, and may you grow in love, joy and peace to the wholeness of life God desires for you. Amen.’</p>	<p>It is worth pointing out to the group that prayer for healing is appropriate, not only when people are sick (cf. James 5:14) but even when we’re feeling well. This touches on the distinction between healing and cure, highlighted in Irene’s testimony. Whatever our physical, mental, emotional or spiritual state might be, we can still ask for healing that we may grow in love, joy and peace and share in the wholeness of life God wants for us.</p> <p>Let the session draw to a close in an open-ended manner as pairs finish praying each for the other and anointing one another with oil.</p> <p>You will need to bring some small bottles of scented (olive) oil with you or, the week before, ask the group members to bring one of their own. Also a candle or t-light for each pair in the group and some matches.</p> <p>Ask group members to bring their diary to Session 6. You may wish to distribute Handout 10 : Resource Materials for reference and use in Session 6.</p>
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